

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 JUSE-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 H-01 PRS-01

RSC-01 DRC-01 /015 W

----- 117848

R 161500Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 0365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CASC, TU (WILLIAM HAYES CASE)

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH WILLIAM HAYES

REF ANKARA 9765

FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF LETTERS
EXCHANGED BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND WILLIAM HAYES JR.:

LETTER FROM HAYES TO AMBASSADOR DATED JANUARY 1, 1974

AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

UNITED STATES EMBASSY ANKARA

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING TO YOU BECAUSE I AM IN NEED OF SOME INFORMATION
AND IT SEEMS AS IF NO ONE ELSE CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS

(NOTE: AF MEANS GENERAL AMNESTY)

FIRST, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF AF. OBVIOUSLY, THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY HAS COME AND GONE. MONTHS OF PROCRASTINATION
HAVE FOLLOWED. AND NOW THERE IS THE SLIGHT POSSIBILITY, RE
THE PROPOSITION OF ECEVIT, THAT A 15 YEAR GENERAL AF MIGHT BE
GRANTED. THIS, IF IT EVER COMES ABOUT, WILL STILL LEAVE ME WITH
ALMOST 7 MORE YEARS OF PRISON. THIS MAY NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH WHEN
EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF MY CURRENT 30 YEAR SENTENCE, BUT BROKEN DOWN

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INTO SIMPLE UNITS OF DAYS AND NIGHTS, IT IS AN ETERNITY. ARE YOU
AWARE OF ANY ACTIVITY EITHER IN ANKARA OR ELSEWHERE WHICH

MIGHT INDICATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOURIST AMNESTY: I.E., FOREIGN PRISONERS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY REGARDLESS OF THEIR SENTENCE? ARE YOU INFORMED AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRANSFER BACK TO THE U.S. , AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DONE BY THE DANISH AND SWEDISH AUTHORITIES FOR TWO LONG-TERM PRISONERS? ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY COURSE OF ACTION AVAILABLE TO ME TO COUNTER THE 30 YEAR EXTERMINATION DECREE OF THE TURKISH COURTS?

I HAVE SAT PATIENTLY WATCHING AND WAITING. I HAVE ALWAYS HELD THE POSSIBILITY OF AF TO BE AN ESTABLISHED FACT. NOW I DO NOT FEEL IT TO BE OF PERSONAL IMPORTANCE. I HAVE SAT AND LISTENED TO THE ADVICE FROM OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS ALLUDING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AID VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. ON DEC 28TH I SAW 3 YOUNG AMERICANS SENTENCED TO DEATH, GRACIOUSLY COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BY THE COURT. MY FAITH IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICIAL INTERVENTION IS DIMMED.

PERHAPS I DO NOT HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. THIS IS QUITE POSSIBLE. I AM ISOLATED HERE TO A GREAT DEGREE. BUT THEN PERHAPS I HAVE QUITE CLEAR VIEW OF THE ABSURD REALITY I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THESE PAST 3 1/2 YEARS. I WRITE TO YOU, NOT ASKING FOR ENCOURAGEMENTS WHERE THEY ARE NOT WARRANTED BY FACTS. I'M NOT ASKING FOR PROMISES OR PLATITUDES. I WANT ONLY FOR SOMEONE TO GIVE ME SOME TRUE FACTS SO THAT I MAY BETTER JUDGE MY SITUATION AND DISCARD WHAT IS SUPERFLUOUS FROM MY PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTION. YEAH, I'D LIKE SOME S*RAIGHT TALK FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. THANK YOU. WILLIAM HAYES
END TEXT.

TEXT OF LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO WILLIAM HAYES, JR.

ANKARA JANUARY 15, 1974

MR. WILLIAM HAYES,

JR., BAYRAMPASA CEZA EVI, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

DEAR BILL:

HOWARD MACE HAS BEEN VISITING HERE IN ANKARA AND

I AM ASKING HIM TO CARRY BACK THIS REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 1.

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LET ME SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I CAN APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTS THAT MUST HAVE BEEN RUNNING THROUGH YOUR MIND AS YOU FACED THE FUTURE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE FOR STRAIGHT TALK. IN THIS RESPONSE I WILL TRY VERY HARD TO MEET THAT DESIRE. FIRST, I CAN IN ALL HONESTY GIVE YOU FULL ASSURANCE THAT WE AT THE EMBASSY ARE VERY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO YOUR PLIGHT. I AM PERSONALLY DIRECTING THAT EFFORT.

BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT SINCE THE
ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER, THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT HAS NOT, AS
YOU KNOW, BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ACTION ON THE VARIOUS AMNESTY
PROPOSALS BEFORE IT. WE ARE EXPECTING THAT A 50TH ANNIVERSARY
AMNESTY LAW WILL BE PASSED FAIRLY SOON AFTER THE
FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS WILL NOT TAKE PLAC

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA00365
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkmt.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ANKARA 9765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH WILLIAM HAYES
TAGS: AFSP, CASC, TU, (WILLIAM HAYES CASE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005